

# ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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### May 7-13 Proclaimed Correctional Officer Week

Governor Janet Napolitano has invited 10 of Arizona's exemplary Correctional Officers to join her in signing a proclamation declaring the week of May 7-13 Correctional Officers Week in Arizona.

The Governor will sign the proclamation on May 10 at 11 am at the Executive Tower, 1700 W. Washington in Phoenix.

Ten Arizona Department of Corrections canine officers, representing their respective prison complex, will attend the signing. This year's Correctional Officers are: Iran Miller, ASPC-Eyman, Kenneth Vance, ASPC-Florence, Elizabeth Payne, ASPC-Phoenix, Jonathan Fertig, ASPC-Safford, Alvin McPherson, ASPC-Winslow, Abraham Sandoval, ASPC-Yuma, Ruben Gomez, ASPC-Tucson, Stephen Bowie, ASPC-Douglas, Suzette Whitaker, ASPC-Lewis and Theresa Burns, ASPC-Perryville.

"Those who serve in the correctional officers series today, perform their duties under difficult, sometimes dangerous, circumstances on the yard, in the chow hall, on the catwalks and tiers. Usually outnumbered, it's their job to keep the peace with few of the tools issued to other peace officers," ADC Director Dora Schriro said. "Our correctional officers are concerned about the public's safety now. Our correctional officers are also concerned about the public's safety later after inmates are released."

Every year since 1985, correctional officers have been honored during the first full week of May. In Arizona, 4,857 work in prison facilities throughout Arizona helping ensure the safety of millions of Arizona citizens by putting their lives on the line every day.